

TESTIMONY: SB-388 AND AB-588
SENATE HEALTH COMMITTEE
3/24/10

Chairman Erpenbach, members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today in support of legislation that I have introduced along with my esteemed colleague Representative Berceau, Assembly Bill 588 and Senate Bill 388.

More and more often people in our state are seeking out massage therapy to address health concerns, not just to relieve stress or for relaxation. As a result, people who seek out this type of treatment need to know that they are receiving care from qualified massage therapists and bodyworkers.

SB-388 and its companion bill, AB-588 provide this assurance by making sure that anyone who fits the definition of massage therapy and or Asian bodywork therapy are licensed and in so doing have met the educational and skill qualifications required to receive such a license.

As massage therapy is sought out more and more as a form of treatment the risk to those who are treated by a someone who is not qualified can mean the difference between getting better or suffering more through increased pain or even possibly suffering paralysis.

Requiring licensure is not only important as a way to protect the health of those who seek this type of care and treatment, but also to help protect our communities from prostitution rings and human trafficking that are often fronted as legitimate massage therapy centers. Passage of this bill will

give law enforcement an added tool in cracking down on these operations and making it more difficult for them to operate in our communities.

Thirty-nine other states have taken this step to increase standards of professional responsibility and conduct. By passing this legislation Wisconsin would join those states in better protecting the health and safety of those citizens who seek out massage therapy and bodywork treatments.

SB-388 and AB-588 are supported by the American Massage Therapy Association-Wisconsin Chapter, the Associated Bodywork and Massage Professionals, the American Organization for Bodywork Therapies of Asia members of the Federation of Therapeutic Massage, Bodywork and Somatic Practice Organizations.

In closing, I would like to thank Representative Berceau on the great work she has done advancing this legislation in the Assembly and getting it to our house and to urge you to support passage of AB-388 so we can move this onto the Senate's calendar for April.

Rep. Berceau and I will be happy to answer any question you may have. But I would like to tell you that there are also actual massage professionals and experts who can answer any questions you may have on the technical aspects of the profession and this bill.

Thank you.



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

AMENDMENT MEMO

2009 Assembly Bill 588	Assembly Amendment 1
<i>Memo published: February 23, 2010</i>	<i>Contact: Richard Sweet, Senior Staff Attorney (266-2982)</i>

Assembly Bill 588 makes changes in the current law related to regulation of massage therapists and bodyworkers. Under current law, persons are certified as massage therapists or bodyworkers by the Department of Regulation and Licensing (DRL), which is advised by the Massage Therapy and Bodywork Council. The bill creates a new Massage Therapy and Bodywork Therapy Examining Board in DRL. The bill also provides for licensure, rather than certification, and changes the term "bodyworker" to "bodyworker therapist."

Current law prohibits the use of certain titles or initials unless the person is certified as a massage therapist or bodyworker. The bill also prohibits a person from providing massage therapy or bodywork therapy unless the person is licensed, with specified exceptions.

Assembly Amendment 1 makes the following changes to the bill:

- The amendment changes the examining board that would be created by the bill to an affiliated credentialing board. The Massage Therapy and Bodywork Therapy Affiliated Credentialing Board would be in DRL and would be attached to the Medical Examining Board (MEB).
- The amendment retains the public member of the board as provided in the bill, but specifies that the public member must be a person who is recognized by or meets the established standards of a professional organization or credentialing association that recognizes a person in a practice after that person demonstrates an adequate level of training and competency and adherence to ethical standards.
- The amendment removes from the exception provisions of the bill the listing of specific types of practices that are part of the exception (e.g., Rolfing, Hellerwork, Feldenkrais). However, the amendment retains the provision that allows an exception for a person recognized by or meeting the established standards of a professional organization or credentialing association

that recognizes a person in practice after that person demonstrates an adequate level of training and competency and adherence to ethical standards.

- The amendment adds to the list of titles and initials that may not be used by a person without a credential, the terms “masseur” and “masseuse.”

Legislative History

The Assembly Committee on Health and Healthcare Reform recommended adoption of Assembly Amendment 1 and passage of the bill as amended, both by votes of Ayes, 13; Noes, 0.

RNS:jal

West Allis Police Crack Down On Prostitution

Family-Friendly City Has Un-Family Friendly Problem

POSTED: 6:47 pm CST November 24, 2009
UPDATED: 8:23 pm CST November 24, 2009

WEST ALLIS, Wis. -- Business Week just named West Allis the best place to raise kids in the Milwaukee area, but West Allis police have an un-family friendly prostitution problem which they say they now cracking down on.

Police said that purveyors of sex have set up shop in West Allis and using mechanisms from Craig's List to massage parlors.

The West Allis special investigation unit has taken on the prostitution problem and has said that they intend to stop it.

Mike Sherman and his wife have operated Beijing Foot & Body Massage on Highway 100 for a couple of years.

Last month, police raided the shop as part of a prostitution sting.

"They came in six deep, guns waving. I'm like wow. Certainly they would have had somebody in the act of something, if something was wrong, but that wasn't the case," Sherman said.

In court records, West Allis police said that they sent undercover officers into the shop after getting complaints the women performing massages offered sex for cash. Sherman denies any wrongdoing.

"No prostitution, no prostitution at all. Hopefully, this whole things just a big misunderstanding," Sherman said.

Further north on Highway 100, police said that the Days Inn Hotel was host to a small-time prostitution ring.

Police said that two prostitutes advertised on Craig's List and saw clients at the hotel. Ed Laurich lives in an apartment complex on 90th and Oklahoma and he said that a prostitution ring operated down the hall for well over a year.

"Guys coming in at all hours of the day, different guys for short periods of time, it's quite obvious," Laurich said.

A sign now advises visitors that the tenants in apartment 108 have vacated.

Police have arrested two women.

Laurich said that he's thankful that the police moved in.

"I have a 14-year-old son, didn't want people coming in all hours of day and night, getting let in, didn't want to take no chances," Laurich said.

Detectives said that they continue to search the phone and computer records of the suspected prostitution operation to determine if there are bigger players behind the scenes.

West Allis summons spa proprietors over prostitution allegations

By Tom Kertscher of the Journal Sentinel

Dec. 1, 2009 | **West Allis** — The city has summoned the proprietors of Beijing Foot & Body Massage to appear tonight before a Common Council committee on allegations of prostitution at the spa.

After police received a complaint from a spa patron that he was propositioned by a masseuse to pay for a sexual act, police undertook an undercover operation. Similar propositions were made twice in July and once in October to undercover officers, according to the complaint.

On Oct. 28, police executed a search warrant and arrested two female employees at the spa. They were charged Monday with misdemeanor prostitution, court records show.

The Common Council's Safety and Development Committee has summoned Beijing's proprietors, Tong and Michael Sherman of Milwaukee, to appear before the committee tonight to answer the allegations.

The complaint says the council should revoke the spa's operating permit. »[Read Full Article](#)

6 Arrested In Eastern Wisconsin Prostitution Ring

Police Investigated Based On Online, Yellow Page Ads

Updated: 12:08 pm CST December 17, 2009

Text Size

AAA

APPLETON, Wis. -- Six people have been arrested after police served warrants at three massage businesses in eastern Wisconsin.

Police said that the businesses include Hong Kong Massage in Appleton, Beijing Massage in Ashwaubenon and Eastern Massage in the Town of Buchanan. Several residences were also searched.

Police investigated after ads for exotic services were placed in online, in the Yellow Pages and another publication, according to WLUK-TV.

Hearing set on license revocation of spa

Article from the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

West Allis - A public hearing will be held to determine whether a city operating permit for Beijing Foot & Body Massage should be revoked.

The city is recommending that the Common Council revoke the permit because of allegations of prostitution at the spa. On Tuesday, an attorney representing Beijing told the council's Safety and Development Committee that Beijing would challenge the allegations.

After police received a complaint in May from a spa patron that he was propositioned by a masseuse to pay for a sexual act, police undertook an undercover operation. Similar propositions were made twice in July and once in October to undercover officers, according to a complaint the city filed against the spa.

On Oct. 28, police executed a search warrant and arrested two female employees at the spa. They were charged Monday with misdemeanor prostitution, court records show.

Attorney Mark Pecora, who represents owners Tong and Michael Sherman of Milwaukee, has said the owners did not know about the alleged sex acts. He said both employees have been fired and that the owners have taken steps to ensure no such activities occur again.

Facing the criminal charges are Yuping Xu, 46, of Milwaukee and Yan Ling Liu, 43, of West Allis.

Alexander Technique (SOURCE: <http://www.alexandertech.org>)

- **It is not a treatment such as chiropractic or massage.**
- It is a self management technique where the individual learns to sooth their own nervous system, release their own muscles and balance their own structure.
- During an Alexander lesson students wear loose comfortable clothing.
- The technique improves breathing capacity and posture and modifies stress responses.
- Preferred method by chronic pains sufferers for long-term pain relief.
- Teacher observes how you move and helps you understand how your movement style relates to your symptom.
- Teachers help you notice areas of tension and experience your body in a new way with a gentle, supportive touch.

American Organization for bodywork therapies of Asia (AOBTA)
(SOURCE:<http://www.aobta.org>)

- **form of therapeutic bodywork with theoretical roots in Chinese Medicine Theory** including acupressure, amma, ChiNeiTsang, Jin Shin DO®, Medical Qigong, Nuad boRarn (Thai) Shiatus and Tuina are a short selection of ABT modalities known as Forms of ABT. Instructors are certified Aobta®'s and certified practitioners.
- Minimum curricula requirements about 500-hours. Techniques, treatment principles are entirely different from those of massage. Most AOBTA Schools and colleges teach curricula closer to 600-800 hours.
- **The US Department of Education has a totally separate definition of ABT from massage** and ABT practice such as acupressure and shiatsu are not included in the definition of massage, and massage is not in any part of the definition of ABT.
(<http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2002/2002165.pdf> and scroll top age 369)
- Natioanl Certification Exam for Aisan Bodywork therapy is accredited by the National Organization for Competency Assurance (NOCA) and is accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA) which has the highest voluntary certification standards in the US.
- **Asian bodywork therapists do not admit massage therapists unless they have had the equivalent professional training for ABT.**
- The AOBTA is the largest Asian Medicine professional membership organization in North America.

Body-Mind Centering® (SOURCE: <http://www.bmcassoc.org>)

- It is based on anatomical, physiological, psychological and developmental movement principles, which leads to an understanding of how the mind is expressed through the body in movement.
- BMC is based on two premises. (1) that the mind is inseparable from and centered in the body, (2) through the body, the mind can be explored and expressed.
- Participants study every level of tissue, through lecture, imagery, movement, embodiment and group process.

Body-Mind Centering® (SOURCE: <http://www.bmcassoc.org>)...continued

- The rich and rigorous four-year training of Certified Practitioners of Body-Mind Centering® is designed to facilitate a student's experiential process through movement, sound, information, cellular transmission, and hands-on touch and repatterning.
- BMC Members Code - Members of BMCA are advised to investigate carefully their own state or country licensing structures in order to stay informed of professional and legal rights and obligations.

Feldenkrais Method (SOURCE: <http://www.feldenkrais.com>)

- Unique educational system that uses movement and attention to bring about increased awareness and improved functioning through learning.
 - **Not medically or therapeutically oriented.**
 - **It is not a form of massage nor is it appropriately regulated as massage.**
- **Many of the lessons do not involve any touching.**
- If touch is required, it is for educational purposes.
 - The student is fully clothed.
 - The touch is gentle, non-invasive and non-corrective.
- The Feldenkrais Guild of North America (FGNA) is self-regulating, with strict requirements including:
 - o 800 class-room hours over a 38 month period.
 - o Establishes and maintains Standards of Practice and a Code of Professional Conduct, continuing education and mandatory professional development.

Hellerwork (SOURCE: <http://answers.com/topic/hellerwork>)

- Hellerwork is a system of bodywork that combines deep tissue massage, body movement education, and verbal dialogue. It is designed to realign the body's structure for overall health, improvement of posture, and reduction of physical and mental stress.
- Hellerwork is designed to release the tension that exists in the deep connective tissue, called fascia, and return it to a normal alignment.
- The second component of Hellerwork, movement education, trains patients in the proper physical movements needed to keep the body balanced and correctly aligned. Movement education focuses on common actions, such as sitting, standing and walking.
- Verbal dialogue is the third aspect of Hellerwork. It is designed to teach awareness of the relationships among emotions, life attitudes, and the body.
- Hellerwork is based largely on the principals of Rolfing, in which the body's connective tissue is manipulated or massaged to realign and balance the body's structure.
- Hellerwork practitioners are certified by Hellerwork and must complete 1,250 hours of training, including courses in anatomy, psychology, massage, and kinesiology.

International Somatic Movement Education and Therapy Association (ISMETA)

SOURCE: <http://www.theiasi.org> and <http://www.massagetherapy101.com>

- Practices encompass postural and movement evaluation, communication and guidance through touch and words, experiential anatomy and imagery, and movement patterning.
- A practitioner may use slow deep stretching movement or constant applied pressure. You may also be asked to move as pressure is applied or stand move during a session.
- Your practitioner can help you become aware of your habitual and inhibiting movement patterns and help you change these patterns to achieve more fluid movement.
- Structural Integration is typically performed in a series of ten to 13 sessions designed to work in sequence.
- Somatic movement integration allows the body to move with more ease fluidity efficiency and grace so there is more efficient use of muscles.
- Somatic movement integration supports the use of professional standards in lieu of imposed licenses in both education and health related applications.
- Other member organizations with the same principals for somatic education include:
 - The Alexander Technique
 - Bartenieff Fundamentals™
 - Body-Mind Centering®
 - Dynamic Anatomy®
 - Halprin Life/Art Process
 - Laban Movement Analysis
 - Phoenix Rising Movement Therapy
 - Rolf Movement Integration
 - RubenFeld Synergy®
 - Somatic Movement Education, Therapy and Coaching
 - The Topf Technique
- ISMETA does not represent Body-MindCentering®, Alexander technique, the Trager® Approach, or the *Feldenkrais Method*® even though individual graduates of these methods may join the ISMETAs

Polarity Therapy (SOURCE: <http://www.polaritytherapy.org>)

- **Polarity therapy is not within the scope of practice of massage therapy.**
- Holistic healing system that works with "life energy" in all its forms, using a comprehensive system of bodywork, exercise, nutritional guidance and verbal counseling.
- AMTA is opposed to the inclusion of polarity therapy in the massage therapy licensing legislation because they are not massage therapists.

Reiki (SOURCE: <http://www.reiki>)

- **Reiki is a form of therapy that uses simple hands-on, no-touch, and visualization techniques, with the goal of improving the flow of life energy in a person.**
- Reiki therapy is used in much the same way to achieve similar effects that traditional massage therapy is used—to relieve stress and pain, and to improve the symptoms of various health conditions.

- The basic idea of Reiki is that the body has an energy field that is central to its health and proper functioning, and this energy travels in certain pathways that can become blocked or weakened. This idea of energy flow in the body is also a central concept in Ayurvedic medicine and traditional Chinese medicine, including acupuncture.
- Reiki sessions can take various forms, but most commonly resemble typical bodywork appointments, where the receiver lies clothed on his or her back on a flat surface or massage table.
- There is much variation in training methods, speeds and costs. There is no accreditation body for Reiki, nor any regulation of the practice. Reiki courses can even be taken over the Internet, although Traditionalists state that attunement must be done in person in order to take effect.

Rolf Method of Structural Integration or Rolfing Structural Integration or Rolf Institute's Rolf Movement Integration (SOURCE: <http://www.rolf.org>)

- is a form of bodywork that reorganizes the connective tissues called fascia that permeate the entire body.
 - The Rolfing process enables the body to enhance postural efficiency and freedom of movement.
 - Rolfing creates more economical and refined patterns of movement. (so does Structural integration discretion
 - Rolfing can help massage therapists and body workers obtain a different certificate in Rolfing Structural Integration
- The Rolfing Institute of Structural Integration is approved by the State of Colorado, Dept of Education, Division of Private occupational schools and the Colorado State Approving Agency for veterans.

Rolf Structural Integration. (SOURCE: <http://www.rolf.org>)

- Form of bodywork therapy that reorganizes the connective tissues that permeate the entire body.
- Supports pluralistic approach to healthcare with self-certification.

Structural Integration (SOURCE: <http://www.theiasi.org>)

- SI is a somatic practice utilizing fascial manipulation, awareness, and movement education.
 - The focus of Structural Integration is on the fascia rather than on the muscle (as in massage.) The amount of pressure used and techniques applied varies.
 - Fascia is a protective layer of connective tissue that surrounds each muscle and fiber.
- The amount of pressure used and techniques applied varies.
- Typically designed to work in sequence and performed in a series of ten to thirteen sessions.
- The International Association of Structural Integrators (IASI) seeks to move to certification.
- Persons trained in structural Integration at trainings, schools and institutions in accordance with standards established by the IASI.
- IASI is currently accepting new members from the following Structural Integration training programs:
 - Australian School of Applied SI & Somatic Studies
 - Biodynamic Structural Integration
 - Core Institute - Structural Integration Program

Legend:

- Regulated States (Solid Black)
- Unregulated States (White)
- Introduced or drafting legislation (Stippled)

States and Legislation Years:

- Alaska: 1991
- Arizona: 2003
- Arkansas: 1981
- California: 2008
- Colorado: 2008
- Connecticut: 1993
- Delaware: 1993
- District of Columbia (Municipal Ordinance): 1994
- Florida: 1943
- Georgia: 2005
- Hawaii: 1947
- Idaho: 1981
- Illinois: 2002
- Indiana: 2007
- Iowa: 1992
- Kansas: 1985
- Kentucky: 2003
- Louisiana: 1992
- Maine: 1991
- Massachusetts: 2006
- Michigan: 2005
- Minnesota: 1998
- Mississippi: 2001
- Missouri: 1998
- Montana: 2009
- Nebraska: 1958
- Nevada: 2005
- New Hampshire: 1980
- New Jersey: 1998
- New Mexico: 1991
- New York: 1967
- North Carolina: 1998
- North Dakota: 1959
- Ohio: 1915
- Oklahoma: 1985
- Oregon: 1971
- Rhode Island: 1979
- South Carolina: 1996
- South Dakota: 2005
- Tennessee: 1995
- Texas: 1985
- Utah: 1981
- Vermont: 1980
- Virginia: 1996
- Washington: 1976
- West Virginia: 1997
- Wisconsin: 1998
- Wyoming: 1985

The American Massage Therapy Association recognizes that state government regulation of the practice of massage therapy is a desirable means of meeting the needs of the public and the profession.

Hearing, 3/24/2010, the Senate Committee on Health, Health Insurance, Privacy, Property Tax Relief and Revenue, Chaired by Senator Jon Erpenbach

Hi, my name is Kay Peterson I have been a practicing massage therapist in Wisconsin since 1992. I am the current president of the AMTA-WI Chapter and a small business owner in Eau Claire. During my years in practice I have had clients present with a wide variety of medical conditions.

I would like to offer two examples.

An Amish woman, 8 ½ months pregnant arrived with her husband for an appointment, she was suffering from leg pain and was told a massage would help. The therapist, a recent graduate from an EAB approved program, had the client fill out the intake form and instructed her how to position herself on the massage table. When the therapist returned to the treatment room she uncovered the woman's leg, she was shocked at its condition; large bulging purple veins were everywhere. The therapist told the client that she would not be able to work on her legs. The client insisted that her reflexologist had told her that she needed to have her veins stripped and that a massage therapist was the place to go to have this done. The therapist asked to be excused and called me in for a consult. The client had the most severe case of varicose veins I had ever seen. I of course concurred with the newer therapists' assessment. They insisted they wanted this treatment done despite the fact that I drew diagrams and told them the risk to both mother and unborn child. They were not convinced. We ended up refusing treatment and begging them not to try to find someone else who would do this.

The second example is an eighty-year-old male client who had been seeking treatment for several years. On this visit Don complained of abdominal pain, he wondered if I would be willing to massage his abdomen. I agreed. While performing a routine effleurage stroke on his abdomen I felt a very pronounced throbbing on the right side of the abdomen. My knowledge of anatomy helped me to know that this pulse is generally felt on the left side and much deeper than what I was feeling. I asked Don if he had ever noticed this before or been told there was a problem. He said no. I discontinued the abdominal massage and strongly urged Don to see his physician. Don went to the doctor the next day and was diagnosed with an aortic aneurism. Surgery was not suggested. I never performed abdominal massage on him again but he remained a client for four more years until his death from COPD.

These are only two of many examples most massage therapists or I could relate. Had I not been aware of the contraindications to massage for varicose veins as well as having a clear understanding of their dangers I might have done the massage as requested. In the case of the aneurism an untrained person might have continued the massage and caused a rupture of the blood vessel leading to the clients premature death.

Massage Therapists routinely treat clients with a multitude of medical conditions including but not limited to recent joint replacements, cancer, artificial heart valves, auto accidents and pregnancy. Proper training of every person practicing massage is crucial to ensure the safety of the consumer. To ensure their safety it is imperative that only licensed massage therapists be allowed to practice in Wisconsin.



STATE OF WISCONSIN EDUCATIONAL APPROVAL BOARD

MESSAGE THERAPY PRACTICE PROTECTION

SB 388 / AB 588

(AS AMENDED)

BACKGROUND/POSITION PAPER

- The Educational Approval Board (EAB) is an independent state agency responsible for protecting Wisconsin students by regulating certain for-profit and non-profit schools, colleges and universities.¹
- The EAB protects students by requiring schools to meet certain operating and academic standards. For example, it examines the fiscal stability of schools, requires schools to hold a surety bond and pay into a student protection fund, reviews instructor qualifications, requires annual student outcomes reporting, conducts periodic site visits, and ensures program curriculum is comparable in content, length and quality to similar programs offered by other institutions.
- Currently, the EAB oversees 158 institutions serving more than 45,000 (primarily adult) students annually in 800 or so non-degree and degree programs.²
- Of the institutions it regulates, the EAB oversees 16 private schools³ offering massage therapy education and training to more than 900 Wisconsin residents last year.
- Given its oversight of massage therapy schools since 1996, the EAB has seen the effects of the current law for the voluntary certification (title protection) of massage therapists/bodyworkers.
- The current law does not protect the general public well, serves the profession badly, and creates ethical and legal problems for students and graduates of the EAB-approved massage therapy schools.
- The EAB held two meetings with approved massage therapy schools to comment on the draft legislation and explore solutions to current problems.
- Recommendations from both the EAB and the approved massage therapy schools have been incorporated in the legislation.
- **The EAB supports the legislation, as amended, because it better protects the general public, improves the standards for the massage therapy profession, and offers massage therapy students a defined career path with clear legal and ethical standards.**

¹ The EAB's oversight does not include the UW System and technical college system institutions; nor does it include non-profit institutions incorporated in the state prior to 1992, such as Marquette University, Lakeland College and Concordia University, and other schools that are members of the Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and Universities.

² Among the schools offering non-degree programs are the American Institute of Paralegal Studies; Howard Academy for the Metal Arts; the Institute of Dental Assisting; the Milwaukee School of Massage; H & R Block; Radio 1 Broadcasting School; and, the Midwest Truck Driving School. The programs offered by non-degree schools are very diverse and include such programs as networking technology; pharmacy technician; truck driving; massage therapy; heavy equipment operation; radio broadcasting; taxidermy; insurance; motorcycle maintenance; and, paralegal studies.

Among the degree-granting institutions, which offer everything from associate degrees in accounting to MBAs to doctorates in education, are the University of Phoenix, Bryant and Stratton College, Herzing University, Upper Iowa University, ITT Technical Institute, Globe University, Madison Media Institute, Cappella University and Walden University.

³ Blue Sky School of Professional Massage and Therapeutic Bodywork (Grafton, Green Bay, Madison); East-West Healing Arts Institute, Inc. (Madison); Fox Valley School of Massage (Appleton); Globe University (Eau Claire, Green Bay, La Crosse, Madison, Middleton, Wausau); Health Touch Spa School of Massage (Rothschild); High-Tech Institute (Brookfield); Institute of Beauty and Wellness (Milwaukee); Lakeside School of Massage Therapy (Milwaukee); Milwaukee School of Massage (Milwaukee); Rasmussen College (Green Bay); Saint Croix Center for the Healing Arts (Hudson); Salon Professional Academy (Eau Claire); Therapeutic Bodyworks Institute (Pewaukee); TIBIA Massage School (Madison); Wisconsin School of Massage Therapy, Inc. (Germantown); Zenergy School of Massage and Bodywork (Oshkosh).



State of Wisconsin
2009 – 2010 LEGISLATURE

LRBa1495/1
TKK:jld:jf

**SENATE AMENDMENT 1,
TO 2009 SENATE BILL 388**

February 12, 2010 – Offered by Senator HANSEN.

1 At the locations indicated, amend the bill as follows:

2 **1.** Page 2, line 1: delete "Examining" and substitute "Affiliated Credentialing".

3 **2.** Page 3, line 1: delete the material beginning with that line and ending with
4 page 4, line 2.

5 **3.** Page 4, line 3: delete "15.405 (6r)" and substitute "15.406 (6)".

6 **4.** Page 4, line 4: delete that line and substitute:

7 "15.406 (6) (a) 2. One public member who satisfies the requirements under s.
8 460.03 (2m) (b).".

9 **5.** Page 4, line 5: delete lines 5 to 10 and substitute:

10 "**SECTION 3m.** 15.407 (7) of the statutes is renumbered 15.406 (6), and 15.406
11 (6) (title), (a) and (b) (intro.), 2. and 3., as renumbered, are amended to read:

1 15.406 (6) (title) ~~MASSAGE THERAPY AND BODYWORK COUNCIL~~ THERAPY AFFILIATED
2 CREDENTIALING BOARD. (a) There is created in the department of regulation and
3 licensing, attached to the medical examining board, a massage therapy and
4 bodywork council ~~in the department of regulation and licensing, serving the~~
5 ~~department in an advisory capacity~~ therapy affiliated credentialing board. The
6 council affiliated credentialing board shall consist of the following 7".

7 **6.** Page 4, line 22: delete "examining" and substitute "affiliated credentialing".

8 **7.** Page 5, line 11: delete "examining" and substitute "affiliated credentialing".

9 **8.** Page 6, line 16: delete "Examining Board" and substitute "Affiliated
10 credentialing board".

11 **9.** Page 6, line 17: delete "examining" and substitute "affiliated credentialing".

12 **10.** Page 7, line 11: after "therapist" insert "or masseur or masseuse".

13 **11.** Page 7, line 13: after "therapist" or" insert "“masseur” or “masseuse” or".

14 **12.** Page 9, line 1: delete the material beginning with "In this paragraph" and
15 ending with "reiki." on line 5.

16 **13.** Page 9, line 10: delete "examining" and substitute "affiliated
17 credentialing".

18 **14.** Page 9, line 13: on lines 13 and 20, delete "examining" and substitute
19 "affiliated credentialing".

20 **15.** Page 9, line 16: delete "examining" and substitute "affiliated
21 credentialing".

22 **16.** Page 10, line 6: delete "examining" and substitute "affiliated
23 credentialing".

1 **17.** Page 11, line 2: on lines 2, 11, 15, 18, 19 and 23, delete “examining” and
2 substitute “affiliated credentialing”.

3 **18.** Page 11, line 7: delete that line and substitute “the ~~department~~ affiliated
4 credentialing board on a form provided by the ~~department~~ affiliated credentialing”.

5 **19.** Page 12, line 2: on lines 2, 4, 9 and 18, delete “examining” and substitute
6 “affiliated credentialing”.

7 **20.** Page 13, line 9: on lines 9 and 14, delete “examining” and substitute
8 “affiliated credentialing”.

9 **21.** Page 13, line 20: delete “examining” and substitute “affiliated
10 credentialing”.

11 **22.** Page 14, line 2: on lines 2 and 5, delete “examining” and substitute
12 “affiliated credentialing”.

13 **23.** Page 15, line 8: on lines 8 and 15, delete “examining” and substitute
14 “affiliated credentialing”.

15 **24.** Page 16, line 12: on lines 12, 16, 22, 24 and 25, delete “examining” and
16 substitute “affiliated credentialing”.

17 **25.** Page 17, line 2: on lines 2, 3, 4, 8, 17 and 21, delete “examining” and
18 substitute “affiliated credentialing”.

19 **26.** Page 18, line 13: on lines 13 and 18, delete “examining” and substitute
20 “affiliated credentialing”.

21 **27.** Page 19, line 15: on lines 15, 18 and 20, delete “examining” and substitute
22 “affiliated credentialing”.

1 **28.** Page 20, line 8: on lines 8 and 12, delete “examining” and substitute
2 “affiliated credentialing”.

3 **29.** Page 21, line 8: on lines 8, 12 and 22, delete “examining” and substitute
4 “affiliated credentialing”.

5 (END)

AB588

ASSEMBLY BILL 588

An Act to repeal 460.04 (3), 460.04 (4), 460.05 (3), 460.14 (4) and 460.15 (2); to renumber and amend 15.407 (7), 460.01 (1), 460.01 (2), 460.03, 460.04 (1), 460.06, 460.10 and 460.15 (1); to amend 15.08 (1m) (b), 146.81 (1) (hp), 146.997 (1) (d) 13., 180.1901 (1m) (ag), 252.15 (1) (ar) 1., 440.03 (13) (b) 38., 440.08 (2) (a) 46r., chapter 460 (title), 460.01 (3), 460.01 (4), 460.02, 460.04 (title), 460.04 (2) (intro.), (a), (b) and (e), 460.05 (title), 460.05 (1) (intro.), 460.05 (1) (c), 460.05 (1) (e), 460.05 (1) (g), 460.05 (2), 460.07 (1), 460.07 (2) (intro.), 460.07 (2) (c), 460.07 (2) (d), 460.09, 460.11, 460.12 (1), (2), (3), (4) and (5) (b), 460.13, 460.14 (1), 460.14 (2) (intro.), 460.14 (2) (a), 460.14 (2) (b), 460.14 (2) (e), 460.14 (2) (h), 460.14 (2m) (intro.), 460.14 (3), 460.17 and 895.48 (1m) (a) (intro.) and 2.; and to create 15.405 (6r) (a) 2., 460.01 (1g), 460.03 (1m) (c), 460.03 (2m), 460.04 (1m), 460.04 (2) (f), 460.04 (2) (g), 460.08, 460.095 and 460.10 (1) (b) of the statutes; relating to: changes to the regulation of massage therapy and bodywork, creating the Massage Therapy and Bodywork Therapy Examining Board, and granting rule-making authority.

2009

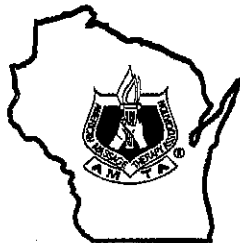
11-18-09. A. Introduced by Representatives Berceau, Kaufert, Pope- Roberts, Suder, Van Roy, Hilgenberg, Staskunas, Ballweg, Molepske Jr. and Steinbrink; cosponsored by Senators Hansen, Taylor, Wirch, Ellis, Olsen and Risser.

11-18-09. A. Read first time and referred to committee on Health and Healthcare Reform. 523

12-02-09. A. Public hearing held.

2010

02-12-10. A. Assembly amendment 1 offered by Representative Berceau. 647



American Massage Therapy Association
Wisconsin Chapter

Voice Mail 414-299-9201

"Promoting Wellness Through Massage"

Assembly Committee on Health and Healthcare Reform, 12/2/2009
Chaired by Representative Richards

Testimony in Support of AB 588 the Massage Licensing Bill

My name is Betsy Krizenesky. I have been a Certified Massage Therapist for 26 years and live and work in Neenah. I speak for the 1800+ members of the American Massage Therapy Association, Wisconsin Chapter, and thank you for the chance to address you.

The Purpose of Assembly Bill 588 is to provide Wisconsin consumers of massage therapy and bodywork therapy the uniform standards of care that they need and deserve.

AB 588 updates the 8-year-old *title regulation law* (or certification) of Massage Therapists and Bodyworkers, to a *practice regulation law*, also known as state licensing. Updating Chapter 460 will ensure that **everyone** providing massage therapy to the public meets state mandated requirements for training and adherence to professional standards. Currently only some practitioners do this. Now only those professionals using the regulated titles, Massage Therapist or Bodyworker, are state regulated. This means that there are many people in Wisconsin providing massage therapy services who are not state regulated because they do not meet state standards for education, testing and ethics. To operate legally they simply avoid using the regulated titles. In the meantime, consumers are confused by the many titles and in some cases their health is put in jeopardy.

Nationwide, massage therapy is steadily becoming more related to helping people with healthcare conditions such as pain management, injury rehabilitation, migraine control and/or overall wellness. A 2009 survey, which is attached, shows nearly a third of all Americans had at least one massage in the previous 12-month period. Four times as many had it for health and stress-related reasons than for simple pampering.

In other words, massage therapy is mainstream and is no longer simply a luxury service. Wisconsin consumers need to be assured that when they entrust their body to a provider of massage therapy services that that person has adequate training. The Massage Therapist needs to understand whether their therapy can do good or cause harm and how to treat appropriately. It is also imperative that therapists know when they should refer out to another healthcare practitioner.

As of August 2009, 43 states and the District of Columbia regulate the massage therapy profession, with 39 states regulating **all** providers of the service. Only five states (Wisconsin, California, Indiana, Virginia and New Jersey) operate under the archaic title regulation approach, which has far less consumer protection oversight.

State licensing will provide an enforceable mechanism for disciplining practitioners who do not meet minimum standards for competency or who violate professional standards. Under current Wisconsin law, no records are kept of unregulated, "bad actors". A comprehensive licensing law will prevent wrongdoers from simply opening up shop in another part of the state where his/her misdeeds are not known.

A Statewide 2007 Survey of 3,810 Members of the Profession Supported Licensing

This was conducted by the American Massage Therapy Association – WI Chapter, in conjunction with the Associated Bodywork and Massage Professionals and the American Organization for Bodywork Therapies of Asia. Sixty-four percent of respondents were in favor of updating to a licensing law.

The AMTA-WI Chapter formed the Wisconsin Massage Licensing Coalition and from September 2007-April 2008 a series of more than 30 town hall meetings was conducted in communities across the state: Eau Claire, La Crosse, Spooner, Waupaca, Wausau, Green Bay, DePere, Appleton, Madison and Milwaukee. A core group met in May 2008 to finalize the contents of the bill draft, which was based on the survey results, town hall meeting responses, and the best regulatory language from all other states. Top priority has been given to fair grandfathering options for experienced practitioners (Section 62) and respectful exemption language for related but distinct therapies (Sections 17-19).

Organizations Which Have Been Consulted and Are Receptive to the Bill

American Massage Therapy Association-WI Chapter

American Organization for Bodywork Therapies of Asia

Other Members of the Federation of Therapeutic Massage, Bodywork and

Somatic Practice Organizations: American Polarity Therapy Association,

American Society for the Alexander Technique, Feldenkrais Guild,

International Organization of Structural Integrators, International Somatic

Movement Education and Therapy Association, The Rolf Institute, United

States Trager Association

Associated Bodywork and Massage Professionals

Reflexology Association of America

Reflexology Organization of Wisconsin

Wisconsin Physical Therapy Association

Wisconsin Medical Association

Wisconsin Chiropractic Association

Wisconsin Society of Certified Acupuncturists

All Educational Approval Board Approved Schools

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or constituent concerns and thank you for considering supporting AB 588!

Betsy Krizenesky, WCMT #53-046

American Massage Therapy Association, WI-Chapter, Professional Member

Law & Legislation Chair, Immediate Past President

Wisconsin Massage Licensing Coalition Chair

Associated Bodywork and Massage Professionals Member

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American Massage Therapy Association®

2009 Massage Therapy Consumer Survey Fact Sheet

Massage is Used More Than Ever for Medical/Health Reasons

Thirty-two percent of Americans get massages for medical and health reasons, according to the 13th annual consumer survey sponsored by the American Massage Therapy Association® (AMTA®), compared to 31 percent last year.

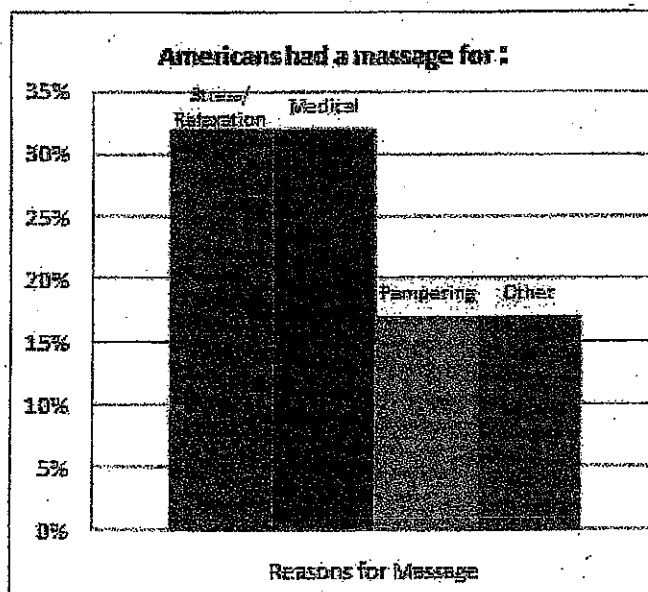
- Twenty-five percent of Americans ages 35-44 have talked to their doctor or healthcare provider about massage therapy this year, compared to 14 percent in 2008.
- Seeking a massage for medical or health reasons is now tied with relaxation and stress reduction as the top reasons why Americans get massages.
- Of those who discussed massage therapy with their doctors, 52 percent say their doctor strongly recommended/encouraged them to get a massage.
- Eighty-six percent of Americans agree that massage can be effective in reducing pain.
- Eighty-five percent of people agree that massage can be beneficial to your health and wellness.

Massage therapy for stress reduction

- This year, 32 percent of Americans said they got a massage for stress and/or relaxation in the last five years, compared to 36 percent last year.
- Fifty-seven percent of Americans say they are more stressed this year than they were a year ago.

Massage therapy and Income

- Forty-seven percent of those making \$35,000 to \$50,000 a year say they have considered massage to manage stress.
- Thirty-four percent of those making less than \$35,000 a year got massage for medical/health reasons. This group is the second largest income bracket of those who had a massage for medical/health reasons.
- Forty-nine percent of those making \$75,000 to \$100,000 choose massage for medical or health reasons.



Older Americans are most likely to seek massage for its medical and health benefits rather than for relaxation or stress reduction

Older Americans are most likely to seek massage for its medical and health benefits rather than for relaxation or stress reduction

- Among those who have had a massage in the last five years, 41 percent of those over 65 years of age and 41 percent of those between the ages of 55 and 64 received their last massage for medical or health reasons.
- In contrast, only 13 percent of those over 65 and 28 percent of those ages 55 to 64 had massage for relaxation/stress reduction.

Massage considerations and recommendations

- Fifty-seven percent of 35-44 year olds who had a massage in the previous 12 months have considered massage to manage stress.
- Sixty-two percent of Americans have or would recommend massage therapy to a relative or someone else they know.

How to Find a Professional Massage Therapist

Finding a professional massage therapist is vital to a positive massage experience.

AMTA massage therapists have demonstrated a level of ability through education and/or testing, adhere to a code of ethics and must meet continuing education requirements. AMTA offers a free professional massage therapist locator service on the Web at <http://www.findamassagetherapist.org/> or toll-free 1-888-THE-AMTA.

About the Survey Findings

The annual consumer survey was conducted by CARAVAN® Opinion Research Corporation International during July 2009, among a national probability sample of 1001 adults (501 men and 500 women) ages 18 and older, living in private households in the continental United States. The survey has a confidence level of plus or minus three percent. Commissioned by AMTA, this is the thirteenth annual massage therapy survey of American consumers.

About AMTA

The American Massage Therapy Association (AMTA) is a professional association of 58,000 members. AMTA provides information about massage therapy to the public and works to improve the professional climate for massage therapists. The association also helps consumers and healthcare professionals locate professional massage therapists nationwide, through AMTA's Find a Massage Therapist® free national locator service available at <http://www.findamassagetherapist.org/> or toll-free at 888-843-2682 [888-THE-AMTA].

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Associated Bodywork & Massage Professionals

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Golden, CO 80401
800-458-2267
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www.abmp.com

Testimony of
Jean Robinson, Government Relations Director
Associated Bodywork & Massage Professionals

Wisconsin Assembly
Committee on Health and Healthcare Reform
December 2, 2009

Associated Bodywork & Massage Professionals (ABMP) is a professional membership association founded in 1987 to provide massage and bodywork practitioners with professional services and regulatory advocacy. ABMP is devoted to promoting ethical practices, protecting the rights of practitioners, and educating the public regarding the benefits of massage and bodywork. Members must meet strict educational requirements and adhere to a published code of ethics. Its current membership totals more than 70,000, with more than 1,800 members in Wisconsin.

ABMP worked closely with the Wisconsin Chapter of the American Massage Therapy Association (AMTA) to ensure an adequate balance of public protection and fairness to massage and bodywork practitioners in the proposed bill; together we ask for a favorable vote. It has been a goal of both associations to seek consistency in state regulations and promote portability in the profession. We believe AB 588 addresses many of the inconsistencies for practitioners living and working in Wisconsin.

Massage therapy has grown to be the third most requested complementary and alternative health practice according to the National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine (NCCAM). In 1998, there were an estimated 137,390 massage therapists, serving a \$4.2 billion industry. In 2005, there were an estimated 241,000 massage therapists serving an \$8.5 billion industry. In 2009, there are approximately 280,000 massage therapists serving a \$10 billion industry. There are approximately 55,000 individuals entering the profession every year in the U.S. The sheer numbers of practitioners provide some justification for mandatory state regulation.

According to a national consumer survey commissioned by ABMP in March 2009, there are three primary reasons people seek massage, each representing about a third of all massages delivered. Most seek relaxation and restoration (34 percent), need relief from pain or muscle soreness (31 percent), or have a massage because they received it as a gift (27 percent). Recommendations by medical professionals and the receipt of gift certificates are primary factors in consumers choosing to get a massage. In regulated states, it is beneficial to consumers to know that any practitioner they may visit has met minimum entry-level requirements regardless of the reason they are seeking massage. Wisconsin certifies fewer than 3,000 massage and bodywork therapists under the current law. We estimate there to be at least 6,000 massage and bodyworkers in the state. It would benefit the public to have qualified practitioners clearly identified as meeting entry-level standards.

Licensure is usually implemented in a profession to ensure a minimum standard of training in a field in order to protect consumers. The widely-accepted minimum education standard in the massage profession (as recognized by ABMP, AMTA, and the National Certification Board for Therapeutic Massage and Bodywork (NCBTMB) is 500 hours of training. Massage therapy is regulated at the state level in forty-three states and

District of Columbia; thirty require a minimum entry-level education standard of 500 hours. Because, over the past eight years, Wisconsin has set the regulation bar at 600 hours, we do not believe that other practitioners in the state will be adversely affected in the state maintains this requirement, even though it is 100 hours more than the standard in the majority of other states.

The Massage and Bodywork Licensing Exam (MBLEx), offered by the Federation of State Massage Therapy Boards (FSMTB), is supported and endorsed as the exclusive exam of choice for licensing purposes by the two largest massage therapy associations, ABMP and the AMTA. Passage of the MBLEx is accepted as a qualification for licensure by twenty-two of the forty-three regulated states to date. More states are in the process of considering adopting the MBLEx, some of which are awaiting legislative action to change statutory language; others are currently in the rules process. The proposed bill would allow a future board to decide on acceptable exam(s).

The massage therapy community proposes a state licensure program for massage therapists in order to define a scope of practice, establish clear titles that the public will understand, provide for the issuance of a certificate and license number for licensees that members of the public can use to verify a therapist's legitimacy, and allow for a process in which practitioners would be held accountable for harmful or inappropriate treatment of a client. Regulation would provide clear avenues for public complaint and allow the state to better control inappropriate practice.

Thank you for your consideration of ABMP's views.



State of Wisconsin / Educational Approval Board

Jim Doyle
Governor

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David C. Dies
Executive Secretary

December 1, 2009

Representative Jon Richards, Chair
Committee on Health & Healthcare Reform
118 North
State Capitol
Madison, WI 53703

Dear Representative Richards:

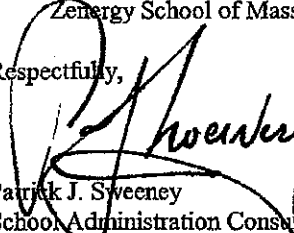
Currently, the Educational Approval Board (EAB) oversees 16 private schools offering massage therapy education and training to more than 900 Wisconsin residents last year. Given its oversight of massage therapy schools since 1996, the EAB has seen the effects of the current law for the voluntary certification of massage therapists/bodyworkers, a title protection statute. Unfortunately, the current law does not protect the general public well, serves the profession badly, and creates ethical and legal problems for students and graduates of the EAB-approved massage therapy schools.

As the Wisconsin Massage Licensing Coalition was seeking input about proposed legislation, the EAB convened two meetings of EAB-Approved massage therapy schools to comment on draft legislation and find solutions to current problems. Recommendations from the EAB-approved massage therapy schools and the EAB have been included in Assembly Bill 588 (AB-588). The EAB-approved massage therapy schools and the EAB support AB-588 because it better protects the general public, improves the standards for the massage therapy profession, and offers massage therapy students a defined career path with clear legal and ethical standards. Following is the list of private massage therapy/bodywork schools overseen by the Educational Approval Board:

Blue Sky School of Professional Massage and Therapeutic Bodywork
East-West Healing Arts Institute, Inc.
Fox Valley School of Massage
Globe University
Health Touch Spa School of Massage
High-Tech Institute
Institute of Beauty and Wellness (The)
Lakeside School of Massage Therapy
Milwaukee School of Massage
Rasmussen College
Saint Croix Center for the Healing Arts
Salon Professional Academy (The)
Therapeutic Bodyworks Institute
TIBIA Massage School
Wisconsin School of Massage Therapy, Inc.
Zenenergy School of Massage and Bodywork

Grafton, Green Bay, Madison
Madison
Appleton
Eau Claire, La Crosse, Middleton
Rothschild
Brookfield
Milwaukee
Milwaukee
Milwaukee
Green Bay
Hudson
Eau Claire
Pewaukee
Madison
Germantown
Oshkosh

Respectfully,


Patrick J. Sweeney
School Administration Consultant



Thai Healing Alliance International

2 December, 2009

Representative Jon Richards (Chair)

Rep.Richards@legis.wisconsin.gov

Room 118 North, State Capitol, P.O. Box 8953,
Madison, WI 53708

Dear Representative Richards,

I am writing with regard to Assembly Bill 588, Wisconsin's proposed revision of the legal guidelines for massage therapy and bodywork. Specifically, I request that you include nuad boran / traditional Thai massage as one of the exemptions to this new revised law. I am aware that other practitioners in your state have written you to make the same request, and I hope my words here will be helpful in making your determination. Nuad boran is also known as "traditional Thai massage" "Thai yoga massage", and "Thai yoga bodywork."

Thai Healing Alliance International (THAI) is the world's international organization for proposing standards of practice and study of traditional Thai massage. THAI is a non-profit organization which operates entirely and exclusively within the sphere of traditional Thai medicine, unlike other organizations such as AMTA, AOBTA who include Thai massage as one of the many modalities they recognize. THAI members live and practice in over 25 countries, and THAI is endorsed by major organizations and press around the world as being the point of reference for the professional practice of Thai massage. THAI has inseparable ties to the major schools and teachers in Thailand, and THAI practitioners and instructors must meet very stringent standards, and ascribe to a professional code of ethics. THAI sets stringent standards; to be recognized as Registered Thai Therapist (RTT), a member must complete a minimum of 180 hours of Thai massage training, carry out 150-200 hours of documented practice sessions, provide health history documentation for their clients, and meet other requirements. Instructors in THAI must have a minimum of 500 hours of Thai massage training, none of which can be based on western massage training.

I realize that professional practitioners of traditional Thai massage, especially those who are members of THAI, will be presumed to be exempt under the new proposed legislation (per the guidelines in Sections 17 through 19). However I sincerely request that along with Rolfing, Feldenkrais, Trager, polarity therapy, reiki and the others, "nuad boran / traditional Thai massage" be specifically exempted by name in your new bill. Doing so now will show that Wisconsin is progressive and forward-thinking in scope and will avoid or minimize any problems that might be presented in the future with regard to legal practice of nuad boran in your State.

Traditional Thai massage (nuad boran) is a long-established healing art, much older in practice than any western modality. It is not related to any other type of therapy. In fact, western bodywork modalities have fused aspects and techniques of nuad boran into their own practices. The fact that Thai medicine is unique and separate from any other system makes it worthy of its own distinction.

Thai Healing Alliance International



www.thaihealingalliance.com

Executive Council Members: Bob Haddad, Cristina Munoz Gandara, Paul Fowler

Committee Members: Danko Lara Radic

Advisory Council: Dr. Rick Gold, Coocky Tassanee/ Loi Kroh, Max Scheurermeier/ Sunshine Massage School, Alan Phillips, Esq.

Sponsors: Emerald Level: Bob Haddad - Lotus Level: Robert Gerry, III, Richard Gold - Saffron Level: Kim Cramer, Cristina Muñoz Gandara, Peter de Munter, Amber McCormack, Kristin Nuttall, Jill Roberts Bronze Level: Tanya Boigenzahn, Naomi Brisman, Hillary Hilliard



Thai Healing Alliance International

Thai yoga massage has often been misrepresented in the west, and especially among the (western) massage community, it is believed to be something that it is not. It is not massage, but there is contact with the human body. There is no kneading, nor oil, nor need for a massage table. There are no stroking movements, no direct manipulation of tissue, no topical rubbing of muscles and ligaments. Clients are fully clothed. Thai medical theory is, much like the concept of Chinese acupuncture, based on locating and dissipating energy blockages that are found along the major energy pathways in the body through pressure, rocking movements and assisted yoga stretches, however those pathways take a much different form than those used in Chinese medicine, and the pharmacopoeia of herbs used to treat disorders is wholly distinct. Traditional Thai massage is an ancient healing art, with thousands of years of history and development. It is not like reiki, polarity therapy or even shiatsu, which were developed in modern times. Because of the unique combination of reflexology, acupressure, and yoga, traditional Thai massage should be exempted by name from western massage regulations. Surely no regulatory agency or proposed bill would attempt to regulate yoga or yoga training, and reflexology and acupressure appear to be exempted under the current proposed legislation. These three elements form the manipulatory basis of Thai massage.

But the most important element of Thai massage is that it is based on energy healing. Traditional Thai medicine theory is based on addressing the energy system of humans, not the physical body. Nuad boran is, at its very essence, an energy healing modality. It is considered as such in Thailand and all around the world.

Your Section 19 says that anyone who *"uses touch, words, and directed movement to deepen a client's awareness of...patterns of movement, and to suggest ... new patterns of movement"* is exempt. Likewise, anyone who *uses touch to affect the energy systems of the human body* is exempt. And subsection b) states that the person must be recognized by, or meet the standards associated with a professional or credentialing organization, such as Thai Healing Alliance International.

I regret not being able to personally address the group at the hearing today, but I hope you will see fit to include by name "nuad boran" and/or "Traditional Thai Massage" or Thai Yoga Massage" into your current list of exemptions, alongside the aforementioned modalities. In my opinion, doing so now, rather than facing an amendment or a potential problem at a later date, will make your new legislation more clear and concise, and will be in the overall best interests of the State of Wisconsin.

For more information on traditional Thai massage and Thai Healing Alliance, please see www.thaihealingalliance.com

And of course, do not hesitate to contact me directly if I can be of further assistance. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Bob Haddad, RTT, Director



Thai Healing Alliance International

www.thaihealingalliance.com

Executive Council Members: Bob Haddad, Cristina Munoz Gandara, Paul Fowler

Committee Members: Danko Lara Radic

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